

## DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

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# JACOB AND ESAU

by the Rev. Robert S. Junge

Abraham received a call from the Lord. That call was like deep remains and affections that are in our hearts. They keep reminding us of our duty to look to the Lord. From that time, the Lord enters more and more into one's life. From inmost celestial things, through spiritual things (which are represented by Isaac) to Isaac and Rebekah's sons, Jacob and Esau, the Lord descends even into the natural things of our lives.

Jacob and Esau were twin sons. Esau, a hairy man of the field, was the first-born. He came to be known as a red man. The color red, the fact that he was an open and free man—a spontaneous man—all show that his representation is love. His representation is good. And this is why he was the first-born. Because unless there is a *love of truth* or an affection of truth, there will be no *reception* of that truth. So good or love is the first-born.

Yet this story indicates that it will not always appear to be so. For Esau sold his birthright, his right to be known as the first-born. And also, Jacob stole his blessing. He stole Isaac's final blessing—a blessing that meant a great deal to the people of Israel. He stole it by pretending—by putting on the appearance of his brother. When truth is separated from good, it will put on the appearance of good. It will put on all manner of actions so that it may gradually grow and be blessed.

Then the brothers separated. Jacob went to a far country. They were no longer in harmony. And this is also the appearance of our own lives. It always seems as if there is a struggle as to whether love or wisdom is most important. It seems as if there is a seesaw battle back and forth—which is most important? Love or wisdom?

But later, when Jacob returned, we learn what the true relationship between them is. They should be together in harmony. They should be as brothers. For when Jacob returned to the Land of Canaan, Esau greeted him. This showed a genuine relationship. Twin brothers should not fight with one another. Good and truth, love and wisdom, should not fight. They should live in harmony. This is beautifully pictured in the book of Genesis where we read in the 33rd chapter: “And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids. And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced *him*, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.”

**Text: Genesis 33**